

WHOSE CONSTITUTION — *Henry A. Wallace. Reynal & Hitchcock, New York. \$1.75*

If everyone took time to read *Whose Constitution* by Mr. Wallace,¹ he would have a good idea of what at least one federal department head sees for America in the future, and perhaps he would be more sympathetic with the problems of the present administration.

Mr. Wallace's book contains a pleasing statistical comparison between American life of the past and American life today. One conclusion which he draws from such a study is that doctrines relating to due process and liberty have been distorted in their application to our modern capitalistic society. Ideas and ideals which were meant to protect real property and personal liberty now protect huge corporations and thwart personal liberty. He does not believe the founding fathers would have tolerated such a situation. At least we can agree with him when he says they did not foresee the situation.

The author covers a large variety of problems in this brief book. He undertakes to point out the essential difficulties of everything from world trade to the newspaper situation in the United States. These problems are presented in a very matter of fact way but in a very understanding manner. His presentation of the agricultural program including the necessity of soil erosion prevention, is especially forceful.

The solution for the distressing economic inequality which the author's figures portray is seen by Mr. Wallace in the attitude of the founding fathers. Their viewpoint was national. Our viewpoint must be the same if we are to preserve and maintain personal liberty and freedom of opportunity. Planning on a national basis has been delayed by the failure of the Supreme Court to recognize that today agriculture and industry are national and not local problems.

Mr. Wallace demonstrates that while he is a practical man of affairs, he is also a social idealist. He does not wish to do away with capitalism, although he predicts the doom of such an economic order unless it mends its ways. The author's solution is in a national unity revolving around a concept of general welfare grounded on an economic as well as political democracy. He tells of a federal council made up of the now warring groups of capital, labor, agriculture, and consumer. Behind such a council and spread throughout the land would be community co-operatives. Only through co-operative philosophy may individual initiative and the social well-being of a whole race be successfully combined. Herein a dream of a people's constitution may be fulfilled.

¹ Secretary of Agriculture.

The author believes this all could be done without a constitutional amendment, since the founding fathers knew their instrument would have to be adopted to unforeseen problems. They granted sufficient powers in order that problems unknown to them, such as those facing us today, could be solved. But Mr. Wallace believes the change will come even if it takes a constitutional amendment or even more than that difficult but peaceful means of change.

The book is written in vigorous, journalistic style. Most of the material is not new but its combination with the author's philosophy is unique. It is an interesting book.

JUSTIN H. FOLKERTH

NEWSPAPER LAWS OF OHIO — *James E. Pollard and Ed. M. Martin. Ohio State University Press*

This new book contains a complete compilation of all the constitutional provisions and laws of Ohio having any relation to newspapers. It belies the layman belief that the law only affects the newspapers in regard to libel and postal regulations. It is hard for one to realize the number of Ohio statutes affecting newspapers; they number in all approximately four hundred. These may be divided into the following four groups: (1) those which have to do with advertising; (2) those which relate to publishing generally; (3) those regarding libel; (4) those pertaining to legal notices.

The authors explain that the compilation was made for two reasons. It is meant first of all to serve as a convenient handbook for publishers, newspaper workers, public officials, and others concerned.

Secondly, it is designed to serve as a possible basis for an eventual recodification of these laws as a means of making them more adequate and effective.

The volume is divided into twenty-seven chapters under such topics as County, Private Corporations, Taxation, and Drainage. The provisions of the Statute are stated and then any pertinent decisions are cited. The book is supplemented by opinions of the Ohio Attorney-General, a complete digest of Ohio Statutes controlling legal advertising, and an appendix containing the general rules for legal advertising. A complete index facilitates the use of the book for reference work.

The authors point out that there are many Ohio laws which have outlived their usefulness and on the other hand that there are several important situations for which no provision has been made.

This book should be of interest not only to newspaper men but to the legal profession generally.

CARL R. BULLOCK